United Nations A/54/867–S/2000/427

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
12 May 2000
English
Original: French

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 31
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Identical letters dated 12 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the communiqué issued today by Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), following the resumption of fighting between Ethiopia and Eritrea (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdallah **Baali**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-42921 (E) 120500 120500

Annex to the identical letters dated 12 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué issued by the office of the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity following the resumption of fighting between Ethiopia and Eritrea

It is with profound concern that the office of the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) has learnt today of the resumption of fighting between Ethiopia and Eritrea. These regrettable developments, coming as they do after intense efforts by OAU to secure the implementation of a peaceful, lasting settlement of this fratricidal conflict, will naturally meet with the profound disapproval of Africa and of the international community as a whole.

The office of the current Chairman of OAU wishes to recall that, since the thirty-fifth regular session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government, it has worked with perseverance and determination and with the active support of its partners to encourage Ethiopia and Eritrea to commit themselves resolutely to completing the framework for a peaceful settlement of this conflict and to its early, comprehensive implementation.

At the time, the two parties' acceptance of the Framework Agreement and the Modalities endorsed by the thirty-fifth Summit in Algiers in July 1999 had aroused hope and optimism that there would be a speedy, peaceful and definitive settlement of the dispute.

It is true that, despite eight months of painstaking, patient efforts to achieve such an outcome, the Framework Agreement and the Modalities have still not been implemented. However, as the communiqué issued by the office of the current Chairman of OAU on 5 May (S/2000/394) indicated, there are now many points of convergence between the two parties as to the process for implementing the peace plan which they have already accepted.

It is in this context that on 5 May 2000 the current Chairman of OAU addressed messages to President Isaias Afwerki of Eritrea and Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia, appealing to them to show restraint and to continue the talks aimed at fulfilling all the conditions necessary for the implementation of the peace plan. The content of this appeal was also brought to the attention of the Heads of State and Government of the States members of OAU and of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and OAU. Unfortunately, the use of force has replaced dialogue and negotiation.

In view of these developments, which could have grave, unforeseen consequences both for the two countries and for the stability of the whole region, the office of the current Chairman of OAU, on behalf of Africa, its peoples and its leaders, addresses a pressing, urgent appeal to the Ethiopian and Eritrean Governments to end the hostilities immediately and unconditionally, so as to spare the fraternal Ethiopian and Eritrean peoples suffering and destruction and allow the peace efforts to continue with a view to a peaceful settlement of the conflict in accordance with the Framework Agreement and the Modalities.

The office of the Current Chairman of OAU appeals to the international community to add its voice and efforts to those of Africa to bring about an immediate cessation of the fighting between Ethiopia and Eritrea, so that OAU can pursue its peace effort to secure the implementation of the Framework Agreement and the Modalities.